paleoseti

The magazine for Ancient Astronaut & Lost Civilizations research
ANCIENT TECHNOLOGIES, CULTURES AND ADVENTURE

PUBLISHED JULY 2019 ISSUE 15 - 5TH PUBLICATION YEAR

SECRETS OF THE TEMPLE

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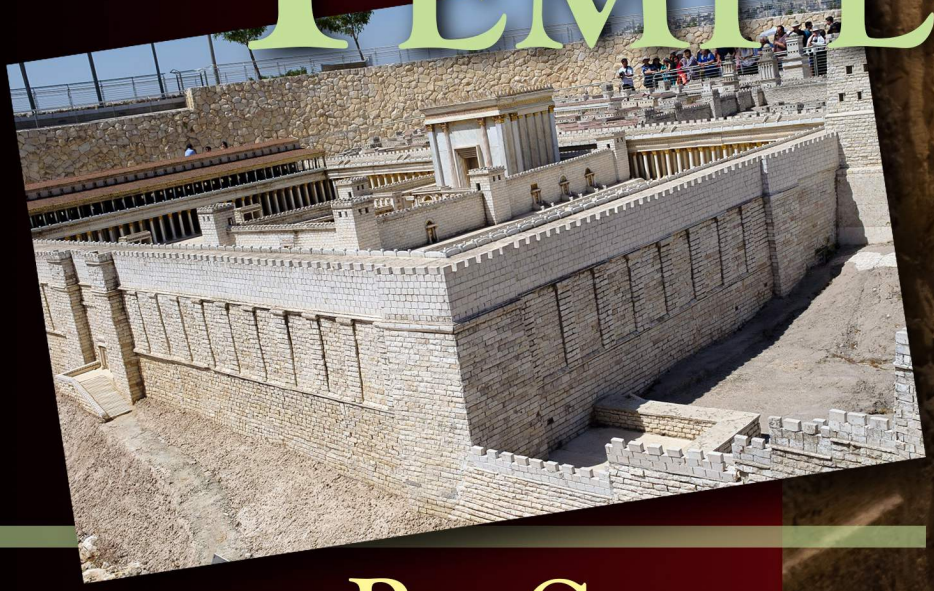

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Letter from the Editor

Dear Readers,

Welcome to Issue 15 of PaleoSeti Magazine! In this issue we would like to keep you updated on ongoing research in Israel, Mexico and South America. Our regular contributor Rafael Videla-Eissman will tell you about ancient UFOs in Patagonia, South America, on from page 15 onwards.

In conjunction with my article in Issue 13, I will present you with more evidence of a most likely radio-active machine that was given to the ancient people of Israel and is the source of many old stories in the Bible. As research goes on, it becomes clear that the traces of this ancient technological artifact can be seen even today, if you know where to look. Check out pages 4-11 for more information.

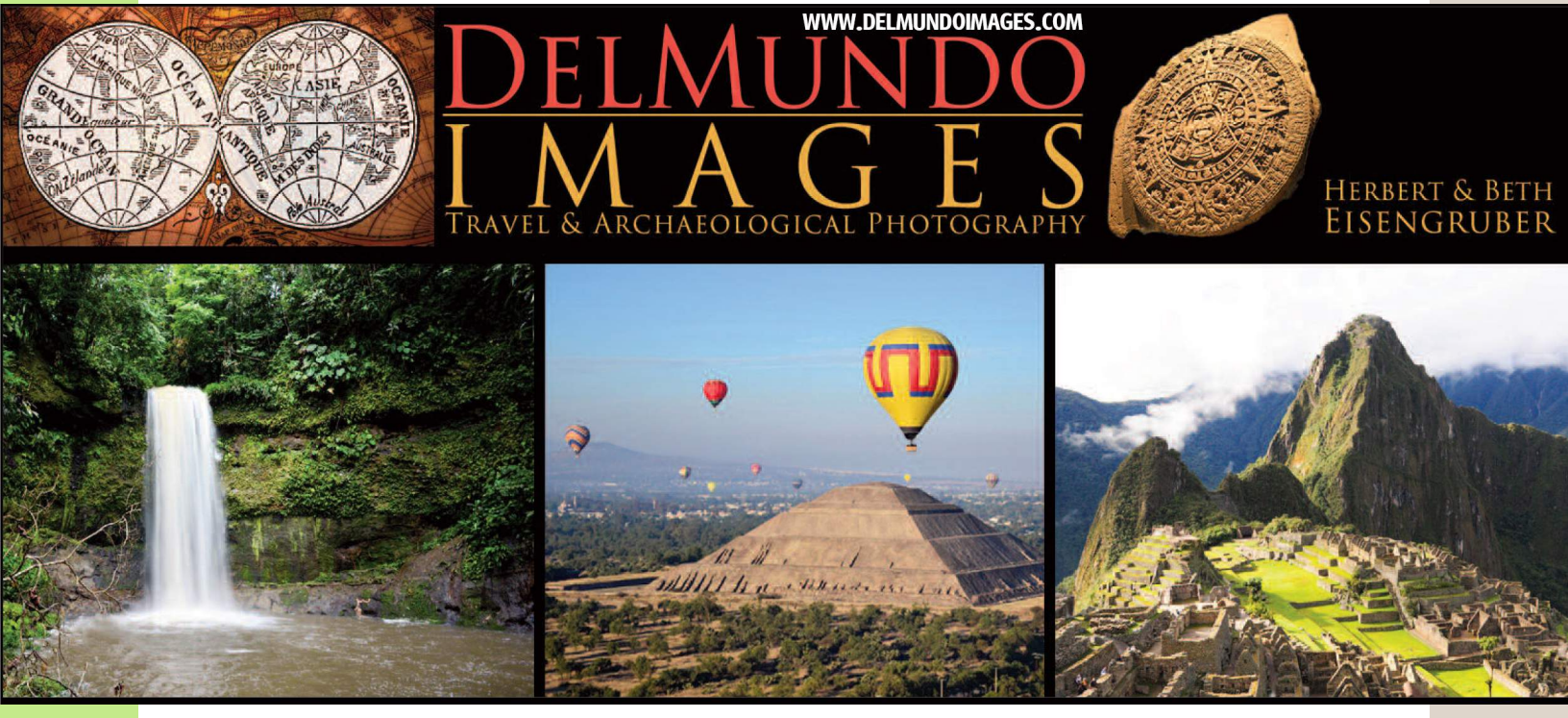
On pages 12-14, we want to update on a technological artifact in the Anthropology Museum of Mexico City, one we have touched on in last issue of PaleoSeti Magazine. Sometimes we can find solutions to ancient mysteries in the most unlikely places, like a local gem and mineral show...

This issue is the first where we utilize our newly established YouTube channel, "Paleoseti Magazine". We will add more content as time goes on, and we hope to bring you additional and background information about our research.

Last but not least, I would like to say a prayer for my brother-in-law, Eric, who sadly passed away recently after a brave battle with cancer. He was way too young to leave us. He leaves a wife and two wonderful children and will be sorely missed. The only consolation is that he knows all the answers now, and he will surely guide us from a happier place. So long, Buddy, we will miss you!

Sincerely Yours,

Herbert Eisengruber
Editor-in-Chief, Paleoseti Magazine



The Dome of the Rock is the most recognizable landmark of Jerusalem today.
Photo Copyright Herbert Eisengruber

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Editor-in-Chief & Design:
Herbert Eisengruber
Additional editing and proofreading:
Beth Eisengruber, Michaela Eisengruber

Website:
www.paleoseti.com

ISSN:
2292-8251

Photography and Copyright information:
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Contact:
PaleoSeti Magazine
c/o Herbert Eisengruber
2404 23 Street NW
Calgary, Alberta
T2M3Y2 Canada

Email:
herbert@paleoseti.com

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PaleoSeti Magazine welcomes feedback. We would love to introduce a "Letters to the Editor" section in our next issue. Please send your feedback to the above Email address. Please keep your feedback related to the PaleoSeti (Ancient Astronaut) and Lost Civilization Theories.

If you like to contribute an article to PaleoSeti Magazine, **please contact us at the email address above** including a short description of what your article will be about.
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Secrets of the Temple

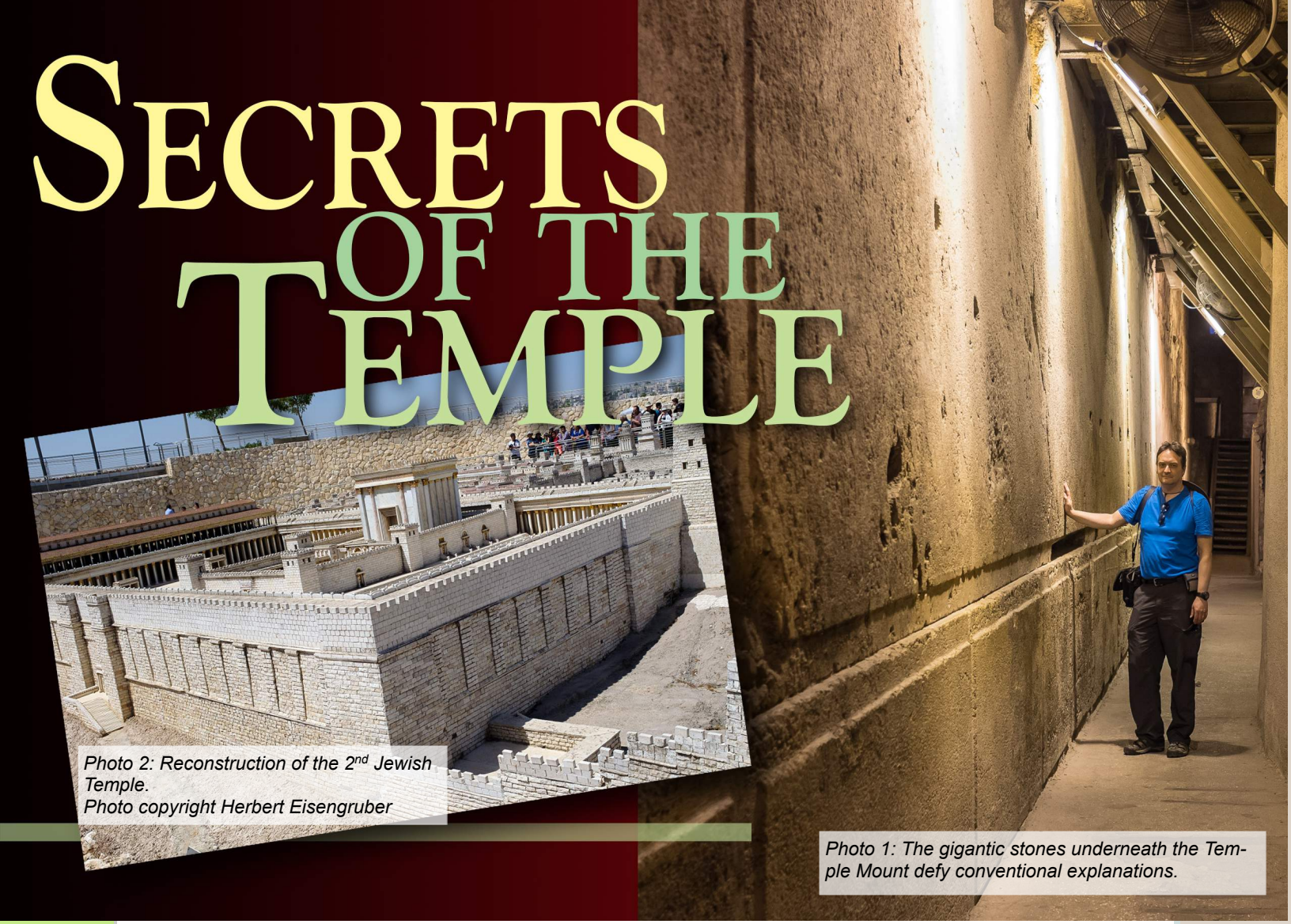


Photo 2: Reconstruction of the 2nd Jewish Temple.
Photo copyright Herbert Eisengruber

Photo 1: The gigantic stones underneath the Temple Mount defy conventional explanations.

Article by Herbert Eisengruber

In Issue 13 of PaleoSeti Magazine, I presented an unusual discovery in the necropolis of Bet She Arim in Israel. The unusual find of a gigantic ancient glass slap with a curious makeup of different chemicals led me to the conclusion that it might have been a part of a sophisticated construction to house a radioactive object in the ancient Jewish temple in Jerusalem. The source of this radioactivity might have been the contents of the famous Arc of the Covenant, the mysterious object described in the Bible and other ancient Jewish sources. British engineers Rodney Dale and George Sassoon wrote an excellent book [1] about what the Arc of the Covenant could have contained. No matter if Dale and Sassoon were correct with their research, what is for sure is that the Arc was a strange and dangerous object which killed people - believers and non-believers alike - if they didn't follow the "rules" in handling it. Today, the only similarity to this situation are objects emitting high levels of radioactivity and/or high electric voltage.

We also know from the ancient scriptures, that the main reason the Jewish temple was built in Jerusalem was to house this mysterious Arc of the Covenant, and later other holy objects also of interest to the Paleo-Seti theory.

Photo 3: Reconstruction of the Biblical Tabernacle in Timna National Park, Israel. Source: Wikipedia, Photo: Ruk7

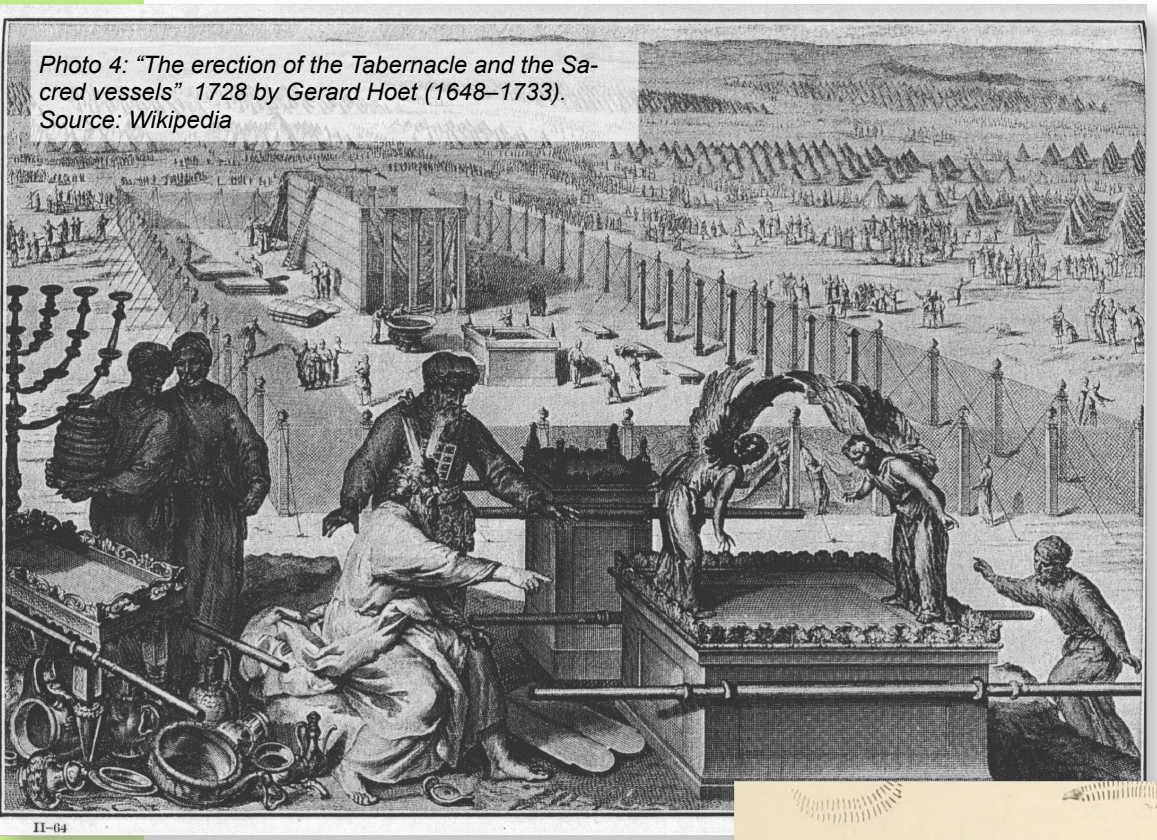


Photo 4: "The erection of the Tabernacle and the Sacred vessels" 1728 by Gerard Hoet (1648–1733). Source: Wikipedia

For our research, the first Jewish temple - also known as Solomon's temple - is of special interest, as it was intended to be the first permanent structure to house the artifact. Before this first temple was built, the artifact was housed in a movable structure, also known as the Tabernacle. I won't go into too much detail into the construction and function of this Tabernacle as it would be too much for the scale of this article. Here are some key points though:

- The Tabernacle was considered a "moveable temple" during the Exodus, and was only set up when the Israelites were camped.
- It consisted of a square space cordoned off off by a fence structure. The dimensions were clearly defined by God and described in several Biblical sources (E.g. Exodus 25-30)
- The Arc of the Covenant along with other "holy" items itself was housed in a tent structure within this rectangle. The dimensions of this structure were also clearly and very specifically laid out by God.
- The complete structure (tent, fence and "holy" items) had very specific handling and transportation instructions, and only specifically trained people were allowed to handle it. In fact, only one certain tribe of the Israelites (the Levites) were even allowed to *camp* around the tabernacle. Failure to so would result in the death of the "offender" [2]
- The clothes of the priests handling the Arc of the Covenant had to be dressed in a very specific way. Again failure to do so, would result in the death of the person handling the Arc.
- Most interestingly: During the time the Tabernacle was set up, there was a constant "pillar of smoke and fire" over the Tabernacle tent [3]

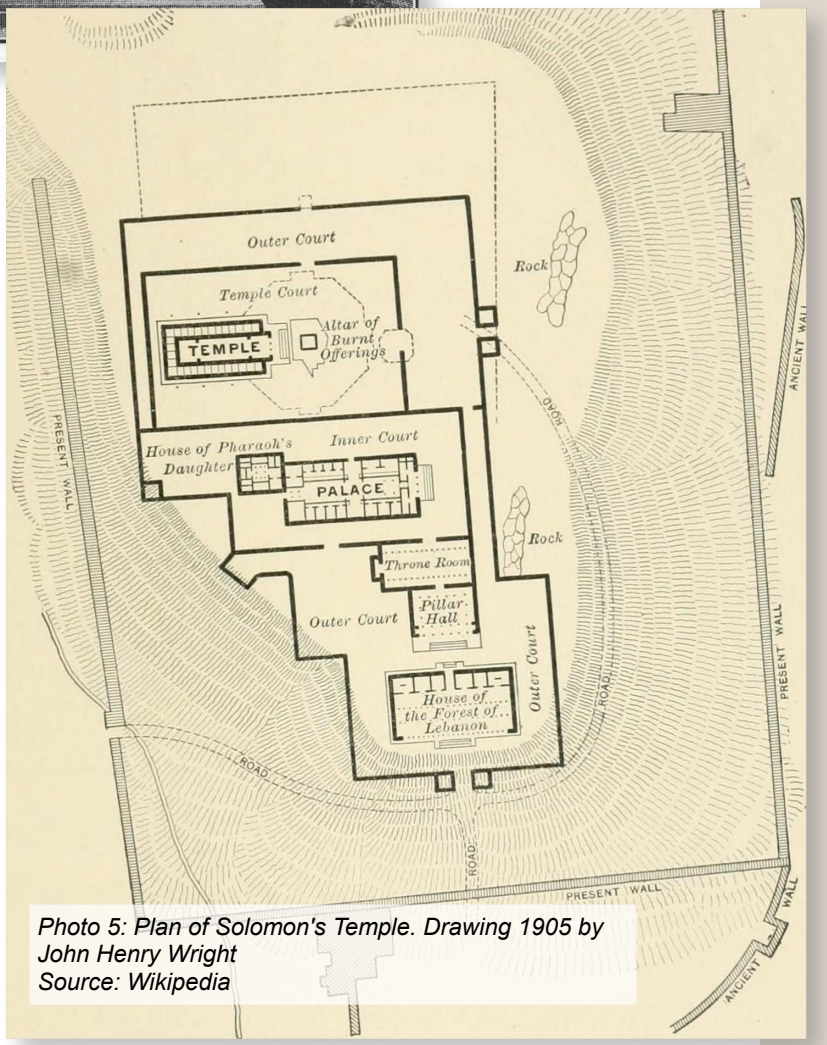


Photo 5: Plan of Solomon's Temple. Drawing 1905 by John Henry Wright Source: Wikipedia

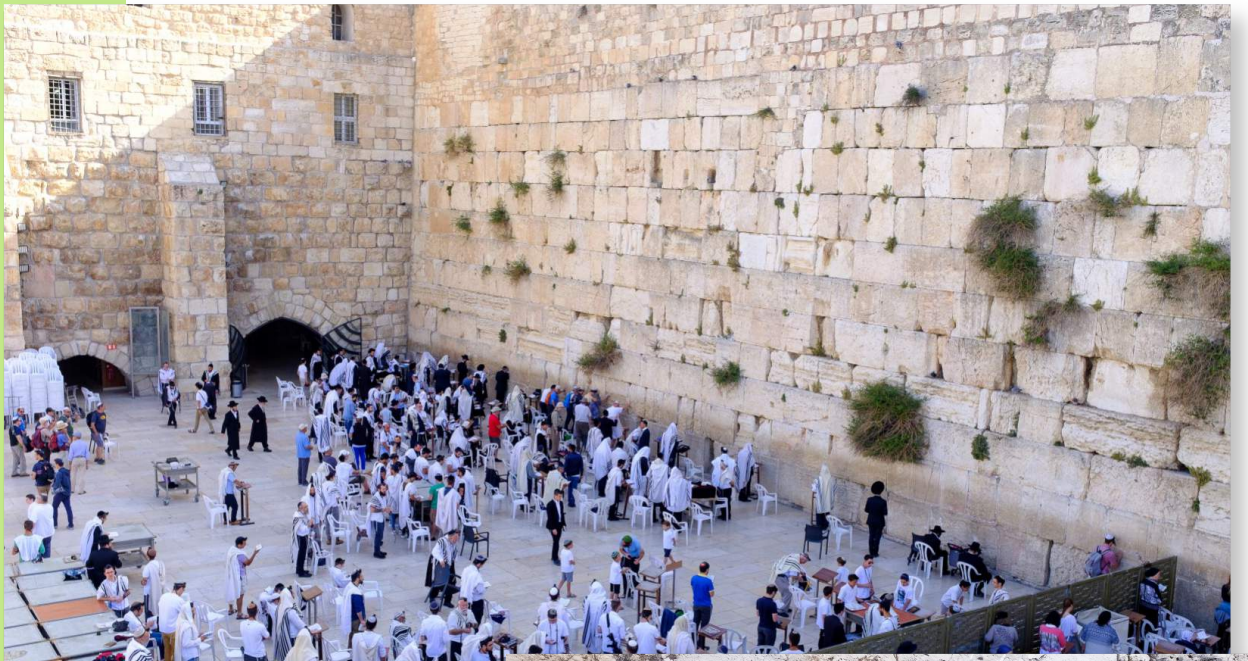
Photo 6: Location of the Temple Mount within Jerusalem. Source: openstreetmap.org

There were also many accidents with the Arc noted in the Bible that led to numerous deaths. Some translations even speak of 50,070 (!) deaths near the city of Beth Shemesh [7]. Some Biblical scholars today think this number is a translation error and the real number is 70, which is nevertheless a high number of deaths.

After the Israelites arrived at their destination (the area around Jerusalem) they no longer needed the Tabernacle and erected a permanent "home" for this Arc of the Covenant. The first known permanent structure to house the Arc of the Covenant was built by King Solomon around 970 BC. At this time, the Arc of the Covenant (or whatever was in it) must have still been very "active" as the Hebrew Bible describes that during the temple's inauguration, when the Arc of the Covenant was placed into the "Holy of Holies" - the permanent loca-

Photo 7: Reconstruction of the 2nd Jewish Temple.
Photo copyright Herbert Eisengruber

All of this strongly leads to the conclusion - if we look at it with modern eyes - that the Arc of the Covenant was a technical object, designed for a specific purpose. Sassoon and Dale [1] suggest that it housed a so called "Mana Machine" which produced the famous "Mana", the food the Israelites consumed during their lengthy trip from Egypt to what is now known as Israel/Palestine. According to the scriptures, the machine was quite dangerous, as it must have emitted some kind of radio activity, extremely harmful to untrained people. There were specific instructions on how much space had to be between "normal" people and the Arc. [6]



forms most of the Old Testament. We know the temple was destroyed by the Babylonians around 586 BC. This destruction also marks the loss of the Arc of the Covenant along with other religious items. The building was rebuilt ca. 516 BC and was, therefore, described as the second temple which stood another ca. 580 years, but as said before, our main interested is the first temple.

tion of the Arc -, the structure was filled with smoke. [4]

So what do we know about this Temple of Solomon, the first Jewish Temple? In my opinion, it would be a main key to the Paleo-Seti Puzzle as it was purposefully built to house an extraterrestrial technical artifact. The only source we have about the first temple is the Hebrew Bible which

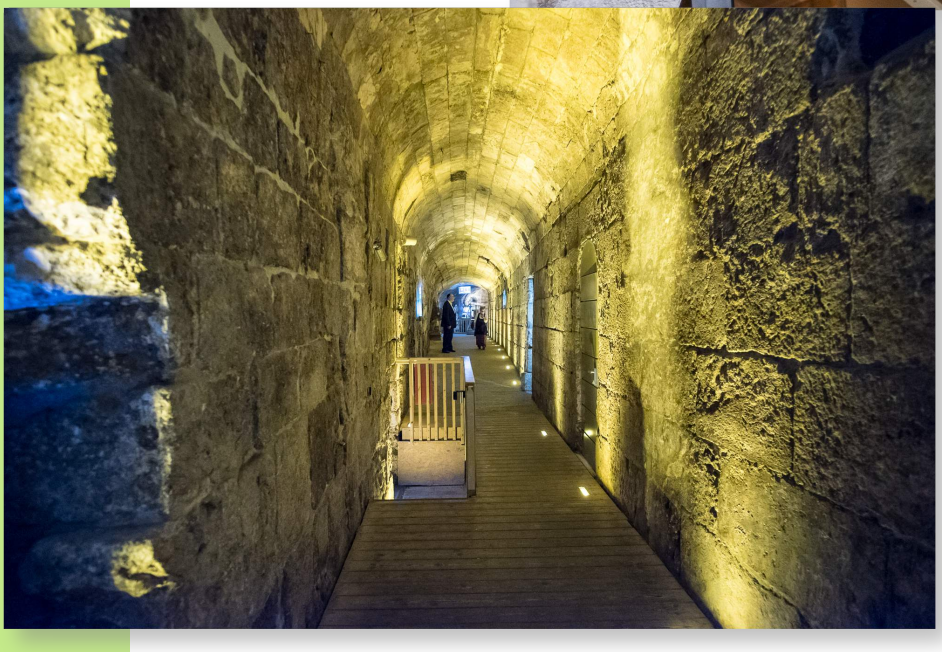


Photo 8 - Top: The Western Wall - also called the Wailing Wall - is the center of the Jewish aith today. Not many people know that there is an underground passage to explore which was excavated in the 1990s.
Photo 9 - Middle: The Entrance to the Western Wall Tunnels.
Photo 10 - Bottom: The underground passages are quite complex and lead to some of the biggest building blocks ever moved...

We also know the general location. It is the so called Temple Mount in Jerusalem, argu-

Photo 11 - Left: The interior of the Dome of the Rock. It's clear, that this was NOT the place where the "Holy of Holies" was located, as it has all the markings of an ancient altar. Source: Wikipedia. Please compare photo 12 - Top: This is the "High Place of Sacrifice" in the ancient city of Petra, Jordan, which shows many similarities. Source: Wikipedia, Photo: Jorge Láscar

ably the most disputed real estate in the world today. Here, three major religions are arguing over who has the right to it. Therefore, archaeological excavations on the temple mount are not allowed, and the EXACT location of the first temple is not known. Many theories exist, but the best I have seen was published in 1905 by John Henry Wright [5], Photo 5. I think this proposed location is pretty close and in the following text I will outline why.

If you visit Jerusalem and the Temple Mount complex today, you can see how immensely big the temple mount complex is. The top of the temple mount itself can only be visited at certain times of the day, and one can stroll around to have a look at the Dome of the Rock (built around 680 AD) from the outside. Non Muslim visitors are not allowed to visit the inside unfortunately. Thankfully, photographs of the interior exist in the public domain, so I can show it here [photo 11]. Some think that the Dome of the Rock was built at the exact

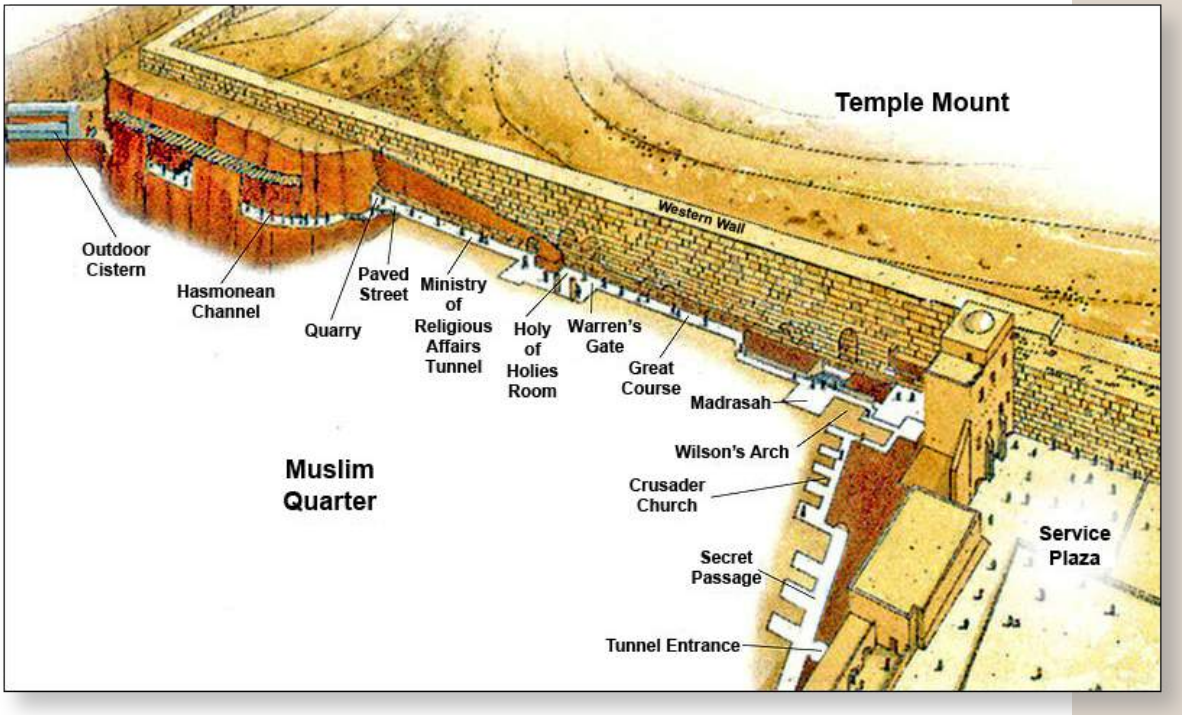


Photo 12: Overview of the Western Wall Tunnels. Courtesy of the Western Wall Heritage Foundation, Joe DeRose

Photo 13: According to tradition, this is the place under the Western Wall closest to to where the "Holy of Holies" was located. Notice the building blocks are fitted in a fashion that resemble Inca stone works in South America.

location of the first temple and the "Holy of Holies" where the Arc was kept. But if you look at the inside of the Dome of the Rock you can clearly see why this could not have been the case. The rock outcropping is a typical "altar stone" where offerings have been brought to God. One can find this type of stone work in other holy places around the Middle East, e.g. in the ancient city of Petra the "High Place of Sacrifice" [Photo 12]. This leads to the conclusion that the John Henry Wright [5] placement of the Dome of the Rock on top of the Altar of Sacrifice of the first temple of Solomon is correct. Therefore, the temple and the resting place of the Arc of the Covenant had to be further to the west closer to what we now know as the Western Wall which we will have a closer look at now.

Many people think that the Western Wall is only the portion were people of Jewish faith pray today [Photo 8]. But this portion of the Western Wall (also known as the Wailing Wall) is only a small part of the Western Wall complex. The most interesting part of the wall is hidden from plain view and many tourists - thankfully maybe - don't know that they can visit hidden parts of this wall. And that is where it gets really interesting. During certain times of the day the au-

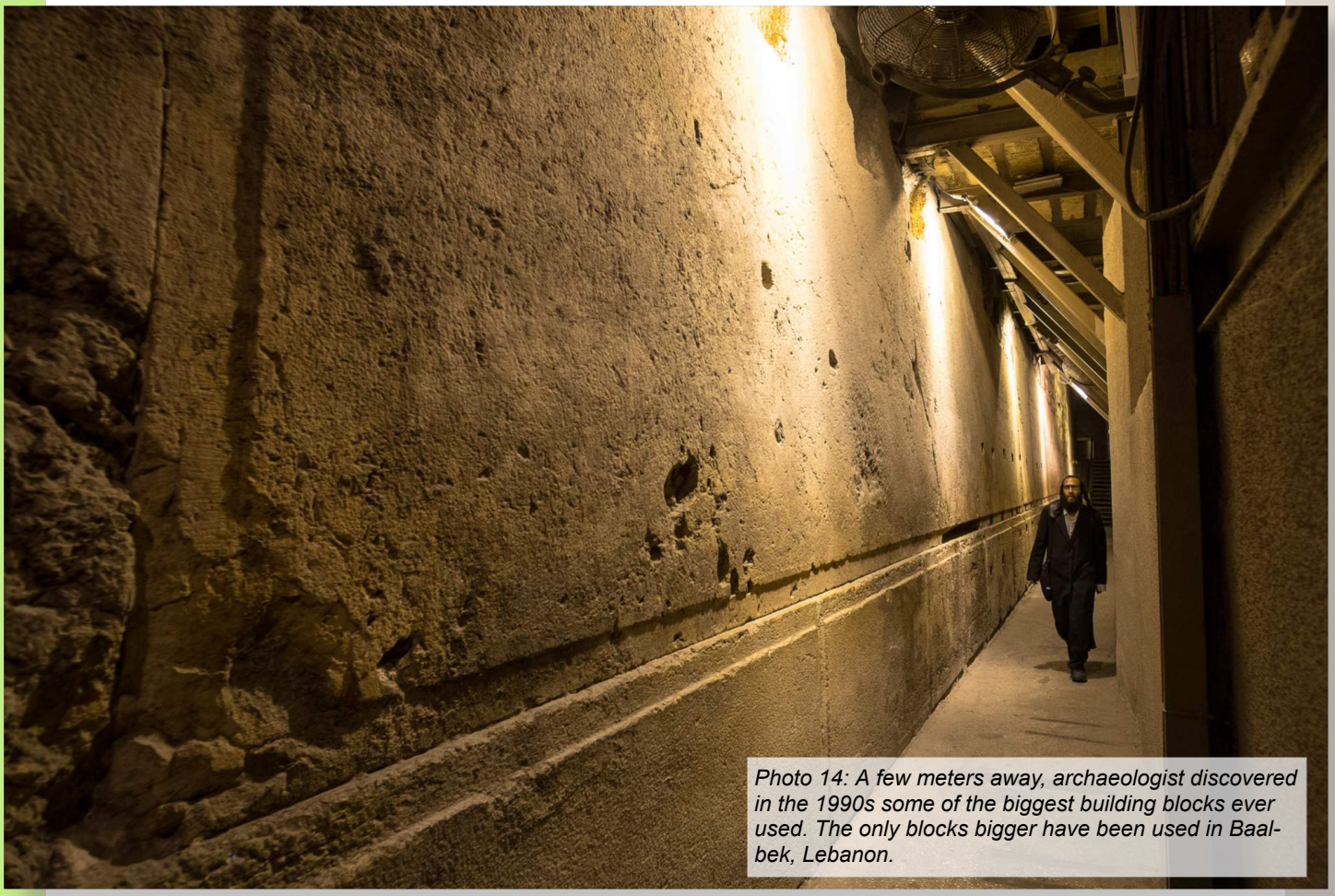


Photo 14: A few meters away, archaeologist discovered in the 1990s some of the biggest building blocks ever used. The only blocks bigger have been used in Baalbek, Lebanon.

Photo 15 - Top: The size of this block is astonishing. It weighs approximately 600 tons! As you can see in this photo, it rests on much smaller blocks that are in line with the size of the rest of the Western Wall. Why did the ancient builders go through the trouble to use gigantic blocks here? Did they want to shield something?
Photo 16 - Right: As you can see in this photo, above the gigantic blocks are much cruder stoneworks. In my opinion, the stones above the huge block are the renovation works for the 2nd temple. They are built on the original gigantic blocks of the first temple (Solomons Temple)

thorities offer tours of the so called Kotel (Western Wall) Tunnels. The visitor can enter a secret underworld into the ancient world along the Western Wall. Down there you enter a maze of history, you are underneath hundreds of years of layers of ancient Jerusalem. Here the Western Wall is not as crowded and I felt not quite as I would invade somebody's prayer space. You walk along the ancient Western Wall in darkness only illuminated by a few light bulbs in places. It becomes immediately clear that what we see above ground today on the Temple Mount is only a small portion of what is actually the "bigger picture" underground. The wall stretches several stories into the ground, and the deeper one gets the more precise and massive the stonework presents itself.

We walked along the wall, and at one point, came to a small opening where some women were praying. A small sign on the opposite wall marks this spot as the closest spot to where the Holy of Holies was once located. It simply marks the spot that is opposite the Dome of the Rock today.

But the real sensation is a few steps further into the tunnel along the wall. Here, the visitor steps down a few steps and is immediately awestruck by stone blocks that defy explanation. This part of the tunnel was only excavated in the early 1990s. The biggest block, one of the largest building blocks in the world, measures approx. 14m x 3m x 3m (46 x 10 x 10 feet) and weighs more then 570 tons. The only comparison that came to my mind are the building blocks in Saqusayhuaman in Peru, and the megalithic stones of Baalbek in Lebanon. These behemoths of stones here are completely out of place compared to

the rest of the stones used to construct the Western Wall. What is especially curious is the fact that these enormous blocks rest on much smaller, "normal" size blocks. Equally perplexing is the fact that these enormous blocks can only be found here in this rather short stretch of the Western Wall. Next to them and above these blocks there is again "normal" sized stone work. What is going on here?

Could the mystery of the exact location of the temple and, therefore, the resting place of the Arc of the Covenant simply be solved by these giant stones? I think so. Sometimes X really marks the spot.

It seems I'm not the only one to find this curious. Archaeologist Dan Bahat [8], from the University of Toronto, and the head excavator of the Western Wall tunnels, thinks that there is the vault of the ancient Jewish temple behind them. Is this just a case of hidden treasure or is there more to the story? Why would a simple vault need such giant stones? The "smaller" stones the rest of the Wall is built from are of significant size by themselves and would have sufficed for any vault imaginable. Unless... Yes, unless whatever was stored in the vault was dangerous. So dangerous that the holy texts warned the people about staying far away from it [6]. Since staying away from this dangerous object is in a city environment is not an option, the walls of the vault had to be thick. Extremely thick! I'm talking about the highly radioactive Arc of the Covenant which was stored behind those giant, almost 600 ton stones we can visit since the early 1990s. These stones in the Western Wall tunnels not only mark the closest spot where the first temple and the Holy of Holies once stood, but are part of the elaborate "Safe" to house the Arc of the Covenant, a highly radioactive machine which was used to feed the Israelites the "Mana" during their Exodus from Egypt. These stones are part of the same elaborate building - the first Jewish Temple of Solomon - which was unique in the ancient world, because it was built by the instruction given by the gods - sorry - God. These stones, just like the giant concrete/glass slab I presented in Issue 13 of PaleoSeti Magazine, are part of the efforts to shield and protect the ancient people from the dangers of the machine.

Could the machine still be behind these stones? Maybe, but most likely not. It would be interesting to bring a Geiger Counter down there. I thought about it, but wasn't brave enough. When the archaeologists finished their excavations at the Western Wall tunnels and opened a simple entrance in the 1990s, it triggered weeks of outrage and uproar with the different religious groups. Unfortunately, many people died. To this day groups coming out of this entrance have to be accompanied by soldiers with machine guns. Bringing and using a Geiger Counter at one of the most disputed places on Earth might trigger some unfortunate misunderstandings. One can only hope excavations are allowed underneath the Temple Mount some day. What secrets might we find?

Note: All Bible quotations below are from the 1769 King James Version of the Holy Bible (also known as the Authorized Version).

[1] Sassoon, George; Dale, Rodney (1978). The MannaMachine. London: Sidgwick and Jackson.

[2] Num 1:51 *And when the tabernacle setteth forward, the Levites shall take it down: and when the tabernacle is to be pitched, the Levites shall set it up: and the stranger that cometh nigh shall be put to death.*

[3] Exo 13:22 *He took not away the pillar of the cloud by day, nor the pillar of fire by night, from before the people.*

[4] 1Ki 8:10 *And it came to pass, when the priests were come out of the holy place, that the cloud filled the house of the LORD,*

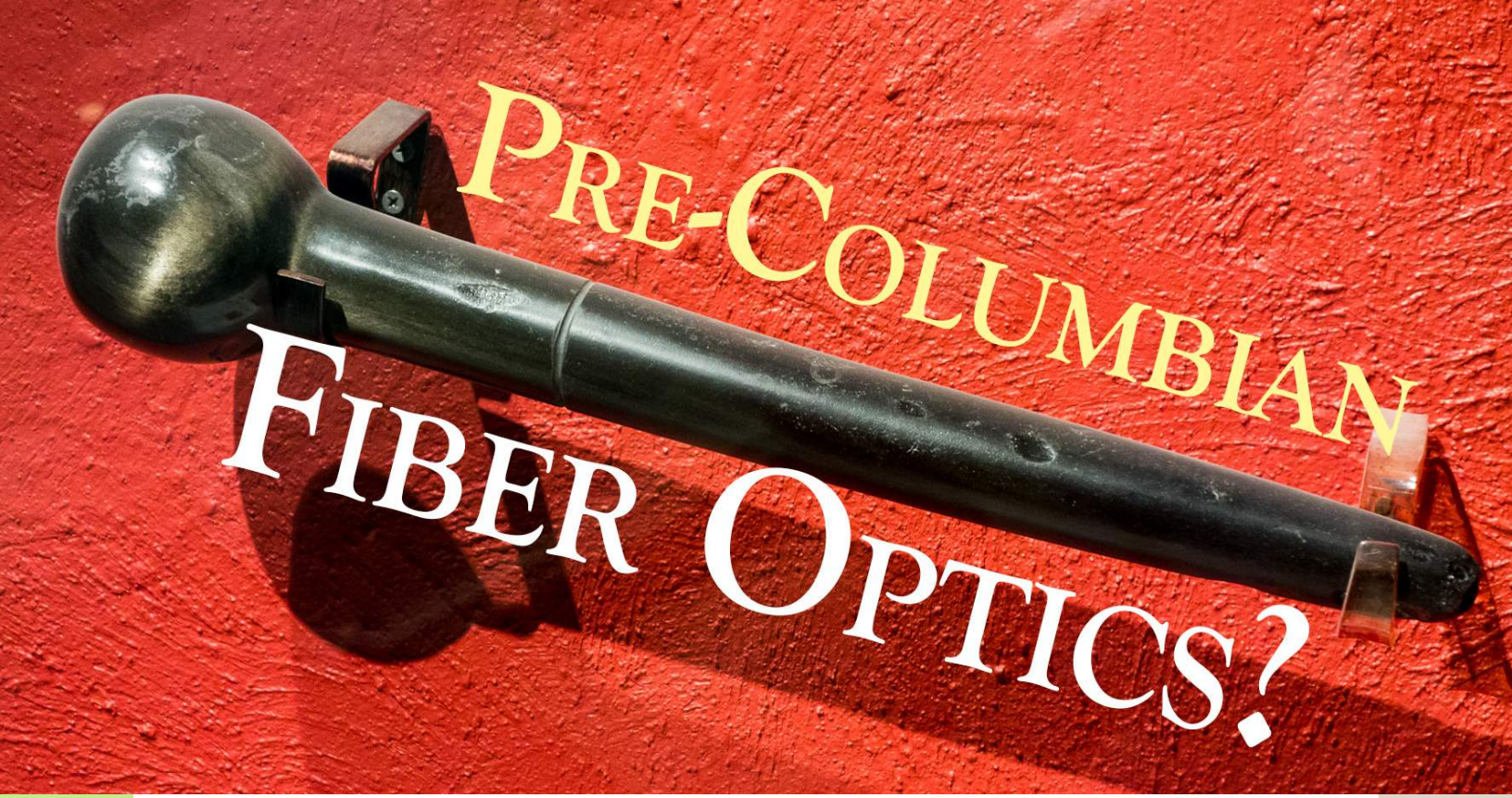
1Ki 8:11 *So that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud: for the glory of the LORD had filled the house of the LORD.*

[5] Wright, John Henry, "A history of all nations from the earliest times; being a universal historical library"; Lea Brothers & company, Philadelphia, New York 1905

[6] Jos 3:4 Yet there shall be a space between you and it, about two thousand cubits by measure: come not near unto it, that ye may know the way by which ye must go: for ye have not passed *this* way heretofore.

[7] Sa 6:19 And he smote the men of Beth Shemesh, because they had looked into the ark of the LORD, even he smote of the people fifty thousand and threescore and ten men: and the people lamented, because the LORD had smitten *many* of the people with a great slaughter.

[8] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dan_Bahat



Pre-Columbian Fiber Optics?

Article by Herbert Eisengruber

In the last Issue of PaleoSeti Magazine (Issue 14), I presented in the article, "The Tools of the Masters", Page 10, a "Magic Scepter" from Mexico. Since PaleoSeti Magazine is a research magazine, I would like to share with you ongoing research on this artifact. Since the publication in March new findings came to light which might help to uncover this mysterious artifact's possible former purpose. In the article, I pointed out that throughout the Millennia scepters had always been connected to light somehow. Many had jewels on top which sparkled and reflected the light and gave the illusion of glowing. I speculated that the Mexican Scepter was polished the way it presents today to imitate a glow, therefore, a piece of a "cargo cult", misunderstood technology. Now I think it could be much more then that. During our last visit in the Anthropology Museum of Mexico City, I also noticed right next to the scepter, several smaller versions, in the same basic shape and made out of the same material. At first I was so fixated on the bigger object that I didn't really pay attention to them. Now I think they are the key to understanding its function.

But one step after another.

During a long and cold winter here in Calgary this last season, every distraction from the daily routine was welcome. That's why my wife and I decided to visit a rock and mineral show which was put on over a weekend. The area here has a lot of hobbyists in the field, so the show is quite a good size and has a nice selection of the common and more unusual rocks and minerals. Among the colorful displays was one exhibitor whose offerings immediately struck my interest. He specialized in polished fiber optic spheres, a byproduct of the fiber optic industry. These spheres are man made. They come in many sizes and colors and I picked one up in a dark brown color. I was floored. The size and color was almost exactly like the sphere on the scepter in the Anthropology Museum in Mexico City. But the most intriguing thing about it was

Photo 1: A sphere made from fiber optic material. Please click here to link to a YouTube video to see the optical properties.
Photo Copyright Herbert Eisengruber

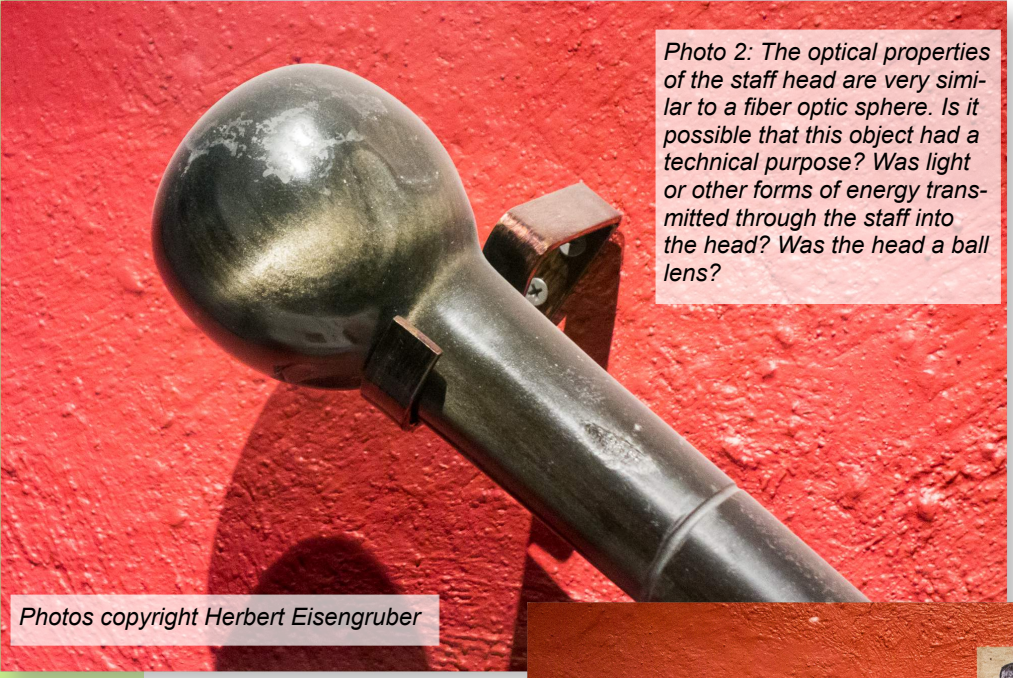


Photo 2: The optical properties of the staff head are very similar to a fiber optic sphere. Is it possible that this object had a technical purpose? Was light or other forms of energy transmitted through the staff into the head? Was the head a ball lens?

Photos copyright Herbert Eisengruber

how the sphere reflected the light. The pattern of the reflection, and the way the light "plays" inside the sphere when one moves around it, is exactly the same as the ancient artifact in Mexico. The effect is not the easiest to describe with words, so I posted a video of it on the Paleoseti.com website. So as a PaleoSeti Magazine first, I will link this video as part of this article to our new PaleoSeti Youtube channel. Please see photo [1] or click here to see the video on YouTube.

What is striking on the fiber optics sphere is that only some angles of the sphere are reflecting the light as seen. If it is turned a certain way, the sphere becomes translucent. What seems like a pretty toy at first has, of course, actual industrial uses in todays high tech world. Without fiber optics, we would have not high speed internet, TV, camera systems and many other uses especially in the medical world. Many endoscopes for example are based on this technology.

It is not easy to gain a understanding of how fiber optics and their lens components work without diving deeper into very intensely technical literature. This is a highly specialized field, and in our daily lives, it is mostly out of our sights. It is best to start with a definition:

"Fiber optic refers to the technology and medium used in the transmission of data as pulses of light through a strand or fiber medium made of glass or plastic (optical fiber), versus being sent as electrical pulses through conductive metal, like copper wires. Optical fiber technology can carry much more data than conventional copper wires and is less prone to electromagnetic interference, simply because data is transmitted in the form of light, rather than electricity." [1]

So far, so good. In modern computer and communication technology, fiber optics is the standard and more and more "vintage copper wire" is converted to this newer technology. It's fast, effective and the information/data can be transported without loss and great speeds - light-speed in the true sense of the word - over great distances.

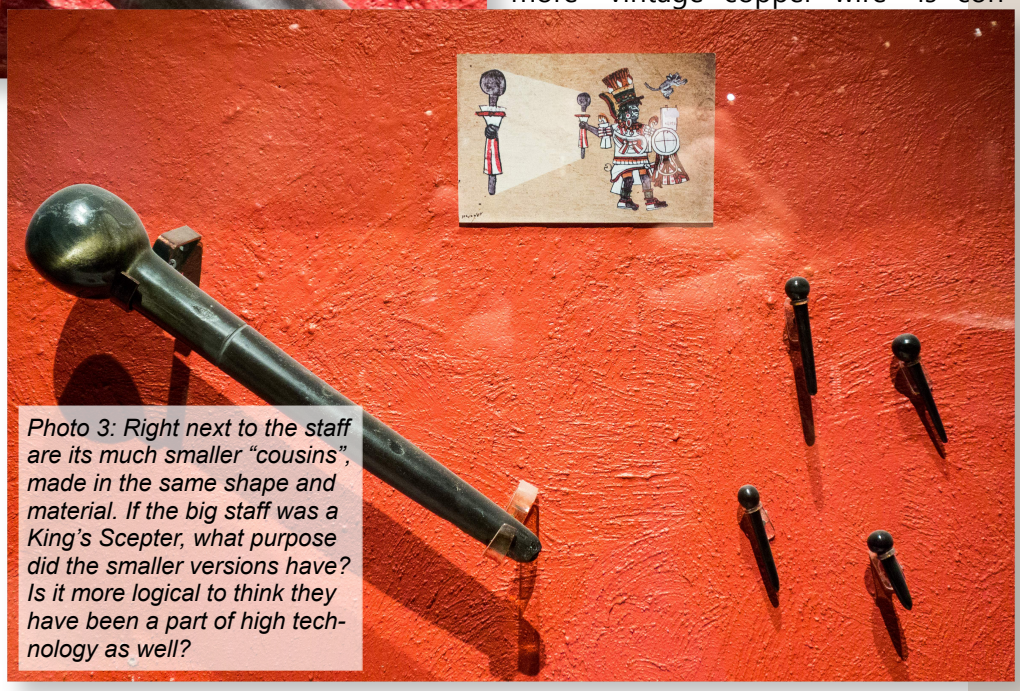


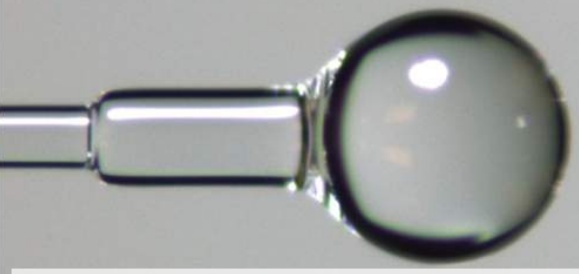
Photo 3: Right next to the staff are its much smaller "cousins", made in the same shape and material. If the big staff was a King's Scepter, what purpose did the smaller versions have? Is it more logical to think they have been a part of high technology as well?

So, what does all of this have to do with the artifacts in Mexico?

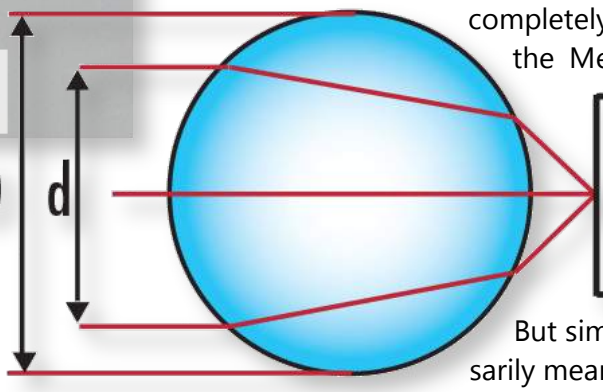
Don't worry, I won't bore you about in-depth details about fiber optics in this article, but I would like to show you some interesting fiber optics components.

But first I would like to update you on something I haven't shown you in my last article, simply because I didn't really pay close attention to this myself. Right next to the "scepter" displayed in the Anthropology Museum in Mexico City are several smaller "copies" of it [Photo 3]. If the "scepter" would be a ceremonial staff only, why are the smaller ones needed? Toys for the kids? I don't think so. These smaller versions are only about 5cm long. The museum displays 4 of

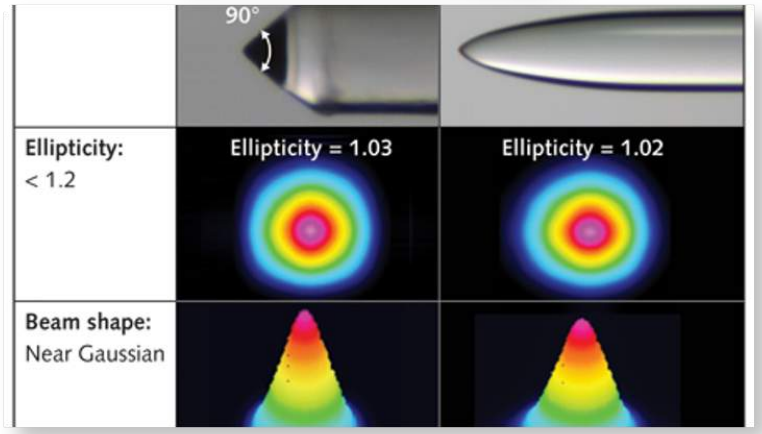
Photo 4, 5 and 6: Modern ball lenses are used in fiber optic and laser applications. Photo 6 shows a tapered "axicon lens" which are used to increase the efficiency of coupling lasers and LEDs into fibers.



Photos 4 & 6 courtesy of laserfocusworld.com, Photo 5 courtesy of edmundoptics.com



them. Obviously, they have been produced in greater numbers, God knows how many the museum has in its vault, let alone the ones still in the ground. What were those used for? Like it's bigger cousin, the smaller versions have a round head, and a staff portion that ends in a tapered, conic end. The shape is the same with all of them with slight variations in size.



While reading up on fiber optics, inspired by the similarity of the ancient Mexican scepter "ball" with a modern fiber optic sphere, I came across something really astonishing in modern fiber optic applications: An article in the magazine "LaserFocusWorld" describes the latest technological advances in the field [2]. In this article, modern fiber optic manufacturing techniques are described, outlining two things important to us in this context: The first is the use of "ball lenses", which another article [3] describes much better than I ever could:

"*Ball lenses are great optical components for improving signal coupling between fibers, emitters, and detectors. They are also used in endoscopy, bar code scanning, ball pre-forms for aspheric lenses, and sensor applications. Ball lenses are manufactured from a single substrate of glass and can focus or collimate light, depending upon the geometry of the input source. Half-ball lenses are also common and can be interchanged with full ball lenses if the physical constraints of an application require a more compact design.*" [3]

The other is the so called tapering technology at the end of fiber optic strands. *"...the conical shape produces a lensing effect at the tip of the fiber, enabling the collection of more light into the fiber from an LED or laser diode."* [2]

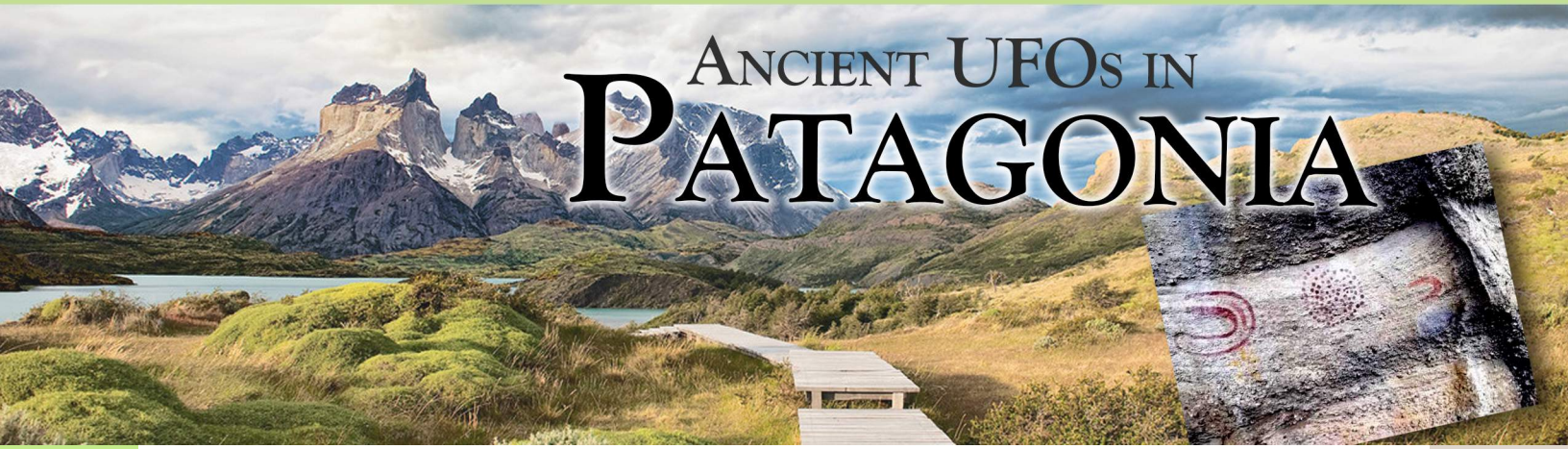
When we see the ancient Mexican artifacts, are we looking at similar technology? Make no mistake, I'm fully aware that the scale of modern fiber optics is completely different compared to the Mexican artifacts. Modern fiber optics and its components are working on the smallest, microscopic scale unlike the ancient "counterparts".

But similar scales do not necessarily mean that the ***principle*** cannot be the same. What works on a microscopic level will also work on a macroscopic one and vice versa. Are we looking at a remnant of ancient technology used by the "gods"? In a thought experiment, imagine a group of stranded astronauts who want to establish a fast communication network, but without have access to highly sophisticated manufacturing methods for microscopic fiber optics. Or could it be that these devices have been used for some other form of "energy" or beams, to just light or lasers as we use them today? Will our own future technical advances deliver a better idea of what these artifacts have been used for? Like always, we have to keep an open mind.

[1] https://www.techopedia.com/definition/14931/fiber-optic

[2] Hendrix, Brad and Harju, Mike; *"Components for Fiber Optics: Advanced manufacturing techniques benefit fiber-optic components"* . Link here

[3] https://www.edmundoptics.com/resources/application-notes/optics/understanding-ball-lenses/



PEDRO SARMIENTO DE GAMBOA AND THE MYSTERY OF AN UNKNOWN FLYING OBJECT IN PATAGONIA

There nonetheless remains a small residue of puzzling accounts, and regardless of what interpretation one places on them, these constitute a phenomenon that spans centuries of time and widely different cultures.

Richard Stothers
NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies

Article by Rafael Videla-Eissmann

Ancient Records

Since early times and in the most cultures around the world, there are records of flying objects. This is the case of the fiery disks recorded in the *Tulli Papyrus* of Ancient Egypt (*ca.* 1440 b. C.) or the *Vimâna* in sources such as the *Mahâ-Bharâta* and the *Ramayana* of India. It is interesting to point out, that while in the Eastern World these flying objects seem to be of a known nature, in the Western World they are an enigma. This is what can be concluded from different accounts from ancient times:

The historian Plutarch wrote of a sighting witnessed by thousands of Roman soldiers in 74 BC while their army was moving to engage the forces of King Mithridates VI in what is today Turkey: *With no apparent change of weather, but all of a sudden, the sky burst asunder, and a huge, flame-like body was seen to fall between the two armies. In shape, it was most like a wine-jar, and in color, like molten silver. Both sides were astonished at the sight, and separated. This marvel, as they say, occurred in Phrygia, at a place called Otryae.*

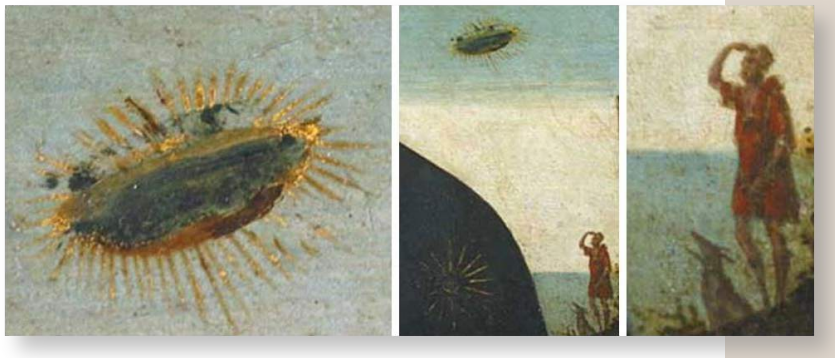
For his part, historian Josephus wrote around 65 AD about a sighting over Judea: *On the 21st of the month Artemisium there appeared a miraculous phenomenon, passing belief. Indeed, what I am about to relate would, I imagine, have been deemed a fable, were it not for the narratives of eyewitnesses and the subsequent calamities which deserved to be so signalized. For, before sunset throughout all parts of the country,* ***chariots were seen in the air and armed battalions hurtling through the clouds and encompassing the cities.***

Also, according to the information consigned in the *Annales Laurissenses maiores*, Saxons besieging the Sigiburg Castle in 776 encountered *a craft bearing the likeness of two large flaming shields reddish in color floating overhead* and frightening off the invaders [1].

Along the many written sources that refer to UFOs, there are also different artistic expressions that show these phenomena as for instance *The Miracle of the Snow* (ca.1400) by Masolino da Panicale where a whole fleet of flying discs can be seen! Another important example is the *Madonna with Saint John* by Domenico Ghirlandaio, a painting from the 15th century where a sparkling flying disc over the left shoulder of the Madonna is visible. Furthermore, a man and a dog observe the strange object in the sky. Another case is the *Crucifixion of Christ* (1530), a fresco at the Visoki Decani Monastery of Kosovo where it is possible to appreciate in both sides of Christ flying objects crewed by men.

In addition, a German carving from the city of Hamburg of 1679 shows two glowing wheels in the sky.

Quite possibly, modern technological resources such as photographic and video cameras have played an important role in recording this enigma. In this regard, since 1945, a massive wave of UFO sightings started almost everywhere throughout the world. However, this is not - as some people might think - a modern phenomenon, it has always been a part of mankind's history.



Madonna and Child with Saint John Baptist Infant (1485) by Jacopo del Sellaio, at the Vecchio Palace in Florence. Over the left shoulder of the Madonna appears a flying disc. A man and a dog seem to be watching this phenomenon.

Left: The Miracle of the Snow (ca. 1400) by Masolino da Panicale. It describes a fleet of flying discs over Florence that were associated by the painter with the return of Christ. Below: A detail of the painting of Da Panicale.

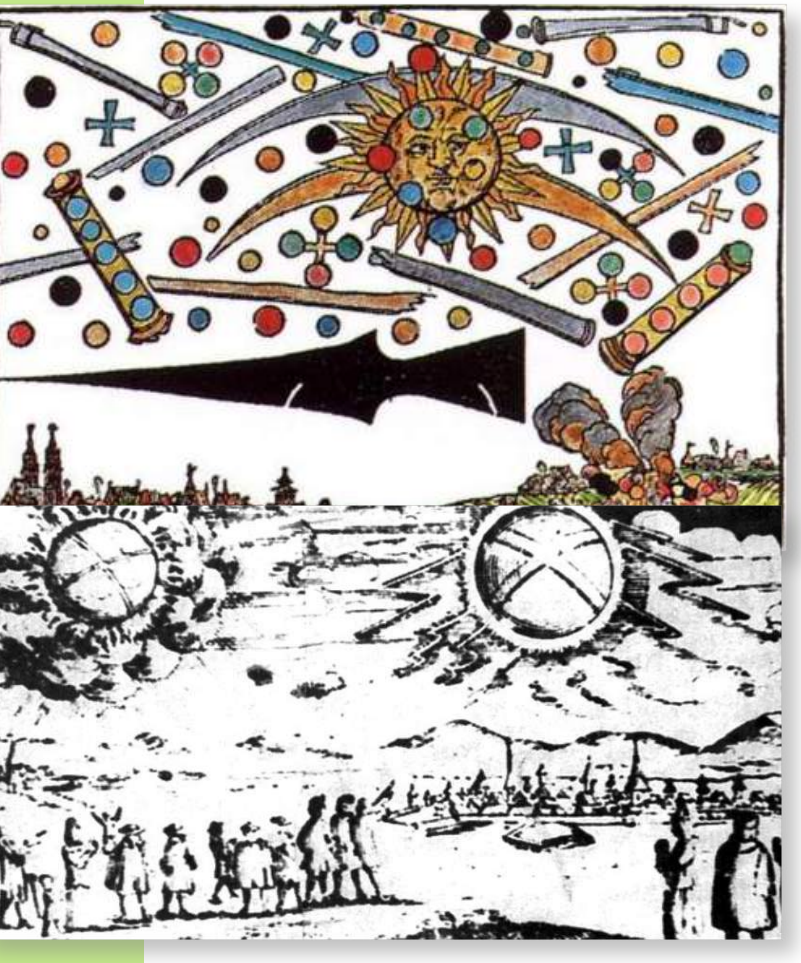
The "New World" and the White Gods

Since the so called *Discovery of America* by Christopher Columbus in 1492, a whole *new world* was opened to European explorers and *Conquistadors* who witnessed amazing cultures and civilizations such as the Aztec and the Inca, their magnificent temples and pyramids and whose origins go back to the dawn of time. Who were these people? Where did they come from? What languages did they speak? What was the origin of their culture? Of course, America did not *fit* in contemporary mind of the Europeans who knew about Asia and Africa but did not know about this *new* land. Was America the continent *Atlantis* that Plato wrote about? Was it the *Ultima Thule* or some other mythic land that legends refer to? Ancient Greek sources describe a vast continent beyond the Strait of Gibraltar and Vikings refer in their sagas about an immense land "beyond the known ocean": *Huitramannaland*, the Land of White Men.

The Annunciation (1486) by Carlo Crivelli. A flying disc casts a ray over the head of the Madonna.

In this regard, ancient myths and legends throughout the Americas speak of the *White Gods* or Viracochas, the civilizing god-men that after laying the foundations of the sacred empires of the continent by the teachings of astronomy, agriculture and metallurgy –among other fields –, vanished with the promise of their return. Most of indigenous people kept the memory of these *White Gods* at the time of the arrival of the Europeans

Above and left: The Crucifixion of Christ in the Visoki Decani Monastery of Kosovo (1350). In both sides of Christ appears flying objects manned by human beings (?).



Left: In the morning of April 14, 1561 over Nuremberg colored spheres and discs that came from vertical cylinders in the sky were witnessed. The odd phenomenon was represented in a wooden carving in 1566 as a battle in the sky. Right: A carving that describes two grand sparkling "wheels" –spheres– crossing the sky of Hamburg on November 4, 1697.

who were mistakenly recognized as the *White Gods* because of their skin color and bearded features. Some of these god-men were Viracocha, Parr, Tunupa and Quetzalcoatl.

So, partially because of this mistaken belief the whole conception of the Americas and the realms of the god-men collapsed and vanished. This explains why powerful empires such as the Aztec and Inca – echoes of the Offspring of the Gods – fell within some months.

When the Spaniards started to settle and began explorations through the Americas, they promptly heard the rumors of fabulous places such as *El Dorado*, *Paititi*, *Elelín* and *La Ciudad de los Césares*, and therefore began the search of these mythic and marvelous places, especially in the unknown lands of South America. Several *conquistadores* such as Nicolás de Federmann, Felipe de Utre, Gonzalo Pizarro, Francisco de Orellana, Alonso de Videla y Nicolás Mascardi, among others, went after these cities and kingdoms. This quest was developed even in the 20th century as Colonel Percy Harrison Fawcett searched for the *Lost City of Z*.

According to numerous *chronicles (crónicas)* based on the own native myths and traditions, these cities and kingdoms were the remote settlements inhabited by people that were cultural and ethnically different than those that the Europeans found in the rest of the continent. They were the *Hijos de los Ídolos*, this is, the *Offspring of the Idols* ("Gods") [2].

According to indigenous traditions consigned later by ethnologists and scholars, the origin of these gods was in the south of the continent. In this sense, archaeologist Adolph Bandelier defined that *Tiahuanaco was built by a culture that came from the south, the Chiloes* [3]. Chiloé is the largest island of Patagonia. Its meaning is a Spanish adaptation of the local word *Chili-hue*: "The Place of the Chiles" (Chiles or Viracochas). And historian María Rostworowski established that *the Path of the Viracochas is from South to North* [4].

It is in Patagonia where one of the most sought after mythical cities is placed. It has been known under several names: *The Kingdom of the Giants, Trapalanda*, *Elelín* and from the 18th century on as *La Ciudad de los Césares* (the "City of the Caesars").

It is there, in the legendary mists and dominions of Patagonia, where remote cultures refer to the "Land

in the Sky" and where strange flying objects have been witnessed since the dawn of time.

The Amazing and Tragic Life of Pedro Sarmiento de Gamboa

Pedro Sarmiento de Gamboa (1532 - 1592) was a Spanish explorer, historian, philologist, mathematician and astronomer. At a very young age he fought (1550-1555) in the armies of Emperor Charles V and by the year 1555 he traveled to Nueva España (Mexico) where soon he faced difficulties with the Inquisition because of some accusations related to his knowledge of the magic arts.
He was sentenced to flogging in the Plaza de Puebla and quite possibly to exile.
In 1557 Sarmiento de Gamboa sailed to the Viceroyalty of Lima (Peru) where he encountered the Inquisition once again who this time accused him to be in possession of two magical rings and magic ink.
In 1564 he was accused of being an astrologist and a necromancer. He was incarcerated. In May 8, 1565 Sarmiento de Gamboa was condemned to exile by the Inquisition. However, the Archbishop of Lima altered his sentence to become part of an expedition to the Pacific Ocean that eventually would discover the Salomon Islands in 1568.
At some time during this period he heard about the mythical *Terra Australis Incognita* or "Unknown Southern Land" at the South Pole: Antarctica.
In 1572, Sarmiento de Gamboa was commissioned by the Viceroy of Lima Francisco Toledo to write the book titled *Historia Índica* composed in three parts: The first being a geographic description of the territory; the second, the history of the Incas (Ingas) and third, the *Discovery* and Spanish Conquest until the year 1572.
Significantly, in the *Historia de los Ingas* Sarmiento de Gamboa concluded that the Incas were in fact the descendants of the survivors of the Great Deluge which made Atlantis sink – following the information of Plato in his *Timeos* and *Critias* –. The conclusions of Sarmiento de Gamboa were based on ethnological and linguistic fields.
Most of the information contained in the *Historia de los Ingas* is based in numerous meetings that Sarmiento de Gamboa had with the descendants of the Incas as well as local informants throughout Peru.
In this sense, the *Historia de los Ingas* describes the origins, development, culture and fall of the Incas – the *Offspring of the Sun*– and it was presented to King Phillip II of Spain.

The Unconquered Patagonia

Later, Sarmiento de Gamboa was commissioned to explore the channels of Patagonia, to reach the Strait of Magellan and to find suitable areas for settlements. Thus, the expedition that was comprised by two ships – the Nuestra Señora de la Esperanza and the San Francisco – was able to develop cartographic charts of the coasts, channels, passes and stretches and last but not least to take possession of this region in the name of the King of Spain.
Understanding the geographic and political importance of this region, Sarmiento de Gamboa presented a project to establish a fort in the strategic Strait of Magellan with the purpose of ensuring its controlto the Spanish King. The King approved the project and entrusted to the Consejo de las Indias – the "Council of the Indies"– to plan the expedition to populate and strengthen it.
Therefore, the Spanish Crown armed an expedition composed by approximately 2500 men who embarked in twenty three ships under the command of Diego Flores of Valdés. The King appointed in 1580 Pedro Sarmiento de Gamboa as Governor and General Captain of the Strait. Also part of the expedition was Alonso de Sotomayor, designated Governor of the Kingdom Chile, and his troops.
The expedition sailed from Sanlúcar de Barrameda in Cádiz on September 25, 1581.
From this point, a series of tragic events unfolded that changed the fate of Pedro Sarmiento de Gamboa:
Few days after leaving Spain, four ships sank during a fierce storm. The rest of the expedition had to return. The 9th of December of 1581, Sarmiento de Gamboa went back to the sea with sixteen ships for Rio de Janeiro (Brazil). On the route, the expedition stopped on one of the islands of Cabo Verde where they remained until February 2, 1582. There, the expedition suffered casualties (deaths and desertions). However, he arrived in Rio de Janeiro on March 25 of the same year having to stay there for six months awaiting better weather conditions: Again, many people died because of illnesses and disease.

On November 2, 1582, the expedition sailed for Río de la Plata (Argentina). In Buenos Aires, Governor Sotomayor disembarked his troops because he had decided to continue to the Reyno de Chile (the "Kingdom of Chile") by land. Diego Flores de Valdés, with five ships, arrived on February 17, 1583 to the entrance of the Strait of Magellan but adverse weather prevented him from entering it so he returned to Rio de Janeiro and later to Spain.

The Lost Cities

On February 4, 1584 Pedro Sarmiento de Gamboa took possession of Tierra del Fuego (Chile) in the name of the Spanish King – more than two and a half years since his departure from Cádiz! –. On February 11th 1584, he founded the Ciudad del Nombre de Jesús – the "City of the Name of Jesus", the very first and most Southern city in the world at that time –. Again, bad weather forced four of the ships to leave their ports and to return to the Atlantic and from there to Spain leaving Sarmiento de Gamboa alone with the Santa María de Castro for the service of the 338 inhabitants of the city!

Certainly, Sarmiento de Gamboa realized that the place could not accommodate so many people so he decided to found another city that would house half of the total of the settlers. Thus, he sent the Santa María de Castro with fifty settlers to Santa Ana Point, the place where he had been in 1580 and he with a hundred others built the road by land. On March 25 he founded the City of Rey Don Felipe, near the present-day Punta Arenas (Chile). On May 24 he sailed to Nombre de Jesús and after some time he decided to return to Spain in search of provisions for the settlers. On June 29 he arrived at the port of Santos (Brazil) where the authorities provided food and supplies for his colonies.

The eager Sarmiento de Gamboa sailed again to the Strait of Magellan but at the height of Bahía (Brazil) a storm destroyed the Santa María de Castro which sank with all its contents! Sarmiento de Gamboa and some crew members managed to reach the coast.

On October 3 he was able to return to Bahía, whose governor helped him once again by providing him with a small 60-ton vessel in which he reloaded provisions for his two cities and on January 13th, 1585 he sailed into the Strait again. Yet, once more a storm caused him to throw all the cargo into the sea in order to save the ship and return to Bahía where his crew simply refused to continue.

What cursed had fallen upon Sarmiento de Gamboa?

An schematic map of the cities founded by Pedro Sarmiento de Gamboa: Ciudad del Nombre de Jesús and Ciudad del Rey Don Felipe in the extreme south of Chile.

A Tragic Fate

The 22nd of June 1586, he returned to Spain in a merchant ship but during the trip the ship was attacked by the English fleet of Corsair Walter Raleigh. He was taken prisoner and taken before Queen Elizabeth I of England who, after questioning him, left him go by entrusting him with a mission to convey to the King of Spain.

On October 30th, 1586 Sarmiento de Gamboa began his return to Spain through Paris. However, when he arrived at the border of his homeland on December 9th he was captured by the Huguenots who locked him in the prison of Lo Mont de Marsan in Aquitania and demanded a high ransom for his freedom which Philip II refused to pay.

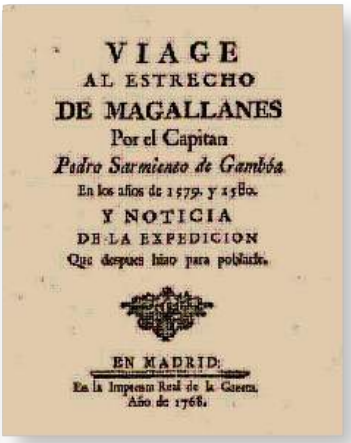
Meanwhile, the inhabitants of Pedro Sarmiento de Gamboa's lost cities in the Strait were starving to death for the lack of provisions and the climatic rigors!

On January 10th, 1587, English corsair Thomas Cavendish anchored in San Blas Bay and in February 2nd passed through the Ciudad del Rey Felipe where he found only fifteen men and three surviving women of the three hundred settlers left by Sarmiento de Gamboa.

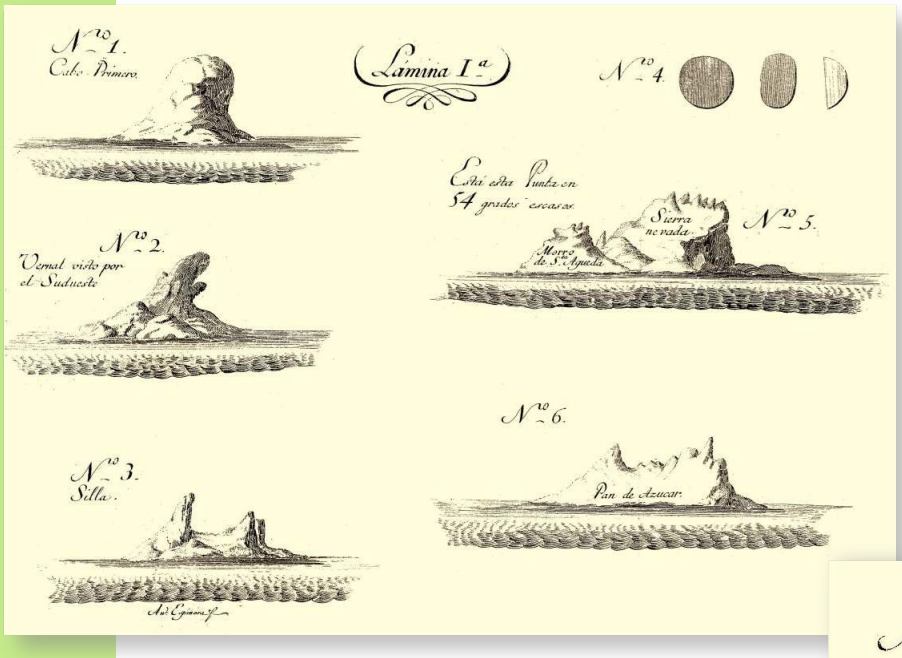
Cavendish saved the survivors and the city was renamed as Puerto de Hambre, *Port Famine.*

By December 1589 the Spanish monarch signed a royal *cédula* in which he ordered the payment of the ransom and thus Sarmiento de Gamboa was able to

rule his homeland after being away for almost ten years!
Upon his arrival to Spain, Sarmiento de Gamboa continued to seek help for the people of the Strait but nonetheless, Philip II had already decided to disregard this problem. As a way of compensating his services and sufferings with the Crown, the King named him in 1591 Admiral of one of the Armadas in charge to protect the ships of the fleet of the Indias.
On July 17th, 1592 Pedro Sarmiento de Gamboa passed away while directing a fleet near the Portuguese capital.
His remains were buried in an unknown place in Lisbon.
Pedro Sarmiento de Gamboa's tragic fate is still echoing in the mists of Patagonia.



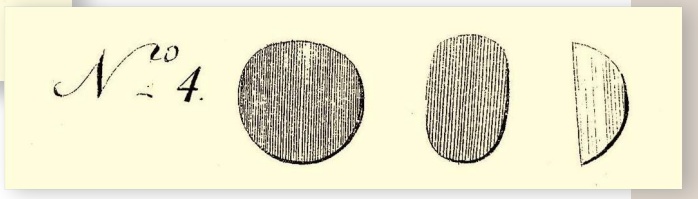
Left: Pedro Sarmiento de Gamboa. Right: Front cover of Viage al Estrecho de Magallanes by Pedro Sarmiento de Gamboa (1768).



In the Lámina Ia (Number 4 in the upper right).appears the UFO recorded by Pedro Sarmiento de Gamboa in the book Viage al Estrecho de Magallanes by (1768).

An Unknown Flying Object in Patagonia

Only by glimpsing the amazing and tragic life of Pedro Sarmiento de Gamboa, it is possible to realize the importance of a peculiar record he made in one of his books. This is the case of *Viage al Estrecho de Magallanes, 1579 y 1580*, or "Voyage to the Strait of Magellan, 1579 and 1580" which was published in Madrid in 1768. This book describes the exploration of the western side of Patagonia.
While sailing towards the Strait of Magellan Sarmiento de Gamboa – and quite probably the members of his crew – witnessed an astonishing *flying object*. In a passage of the *Viage al Estrecho de Magallanes*, Sarmiento de Gamboa wrote:
Esta noche á una hora de noche á la banda del Sueste quarta al Sur vimos salir una cosa redonda bermeja como fuego, como una darga [5], *que iba subiendo por el cielo, ó viento. Sobre un monte alto se prolongó; y estando como una lanza alta sobre el monte, se hizo como media luna entre bermeja y blanca. Las figuras eran de esta manera.*



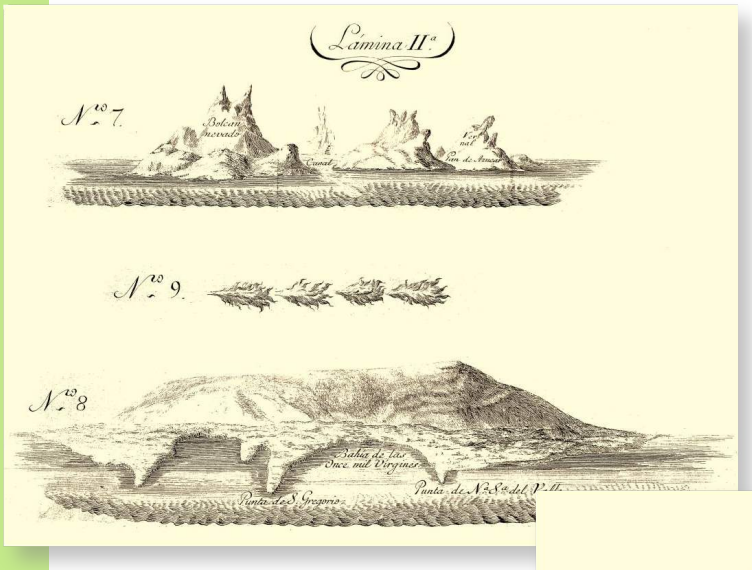
Detail of the illustration of the UFO.

Tonight in one hour of the night in the quarter Southeast band towards the South we saw coming up a red roundish thing like fire, like an oval shield that was going up in the sky, or in the wind. Over a high mount it went; and it stayed as a long spear over the mount; it became like a half-moon between russet and white. The figures were like this.

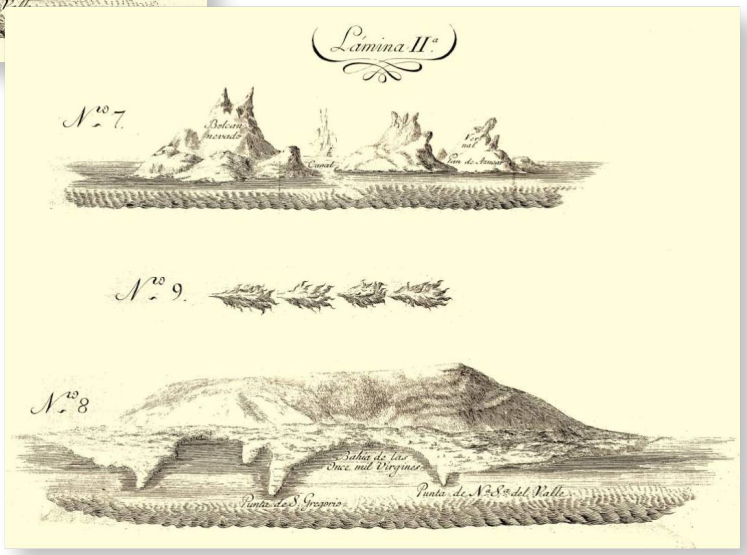
The illustration of Sarmiento de Gamboa – *Lámina Ia, Número 4* (Sheet 1, Number 4) – presents a disc in three forms or shapes. The first is a round figure – a sphere? – that becomes an oval form and finally a «half-moon» over a high mount according to his record.

Top: Petroglyphs in Punta Walichu in what is today the Provincia de Santa Cruz, Argentina. Are these remote Pre-Columbian representations the records of heavenly phenomenon such as the one described by Pedro Sarmiento de Gamboa in 1768?

Certainly, the description made by Sarmiento de Gamboa in Patagonia was not a reference to the Moon because the characteristic and movements of the *flying object* are not of those made by the Earth satellite. Also, the changes of forms of the object described do not occur with the Moon. Then, what was this object? What was its nature? What was its size? Why did it change its form? Where did it come from? Where did it go?



The Lámina IIa and IIIa in the book of Pedro Sarmiento de Gamboa. In the Lámina IIa, Número 9 (Sheet II, Number 9) appears a fiery object.



Was it a similar phenomenon witnessed by the ancient cultures of Patagonia such as the Kaweshkar, Aonikenk and Selk'nam who represented motioned circular figures in their amazing petroglyph art? What is the meaning of these wonderful artistic expressions that do not fit with the patterns of tangible Nature? Was there any relation between the Hówen or the "Heavenly Beings" that descended from the sky according to the Selk'nam mythology with these peculiar phenomenon? Significantly enough and against all conventional knowledge and beliefs, the Selk'nam had a concept for *flying rockets*: ***Haskpén*** ("cohetes voladores"!) [6]. The Selk'nam became extinct dur-

ing the first decades of 21st century. Therefore it is quite improbable that they were aware of modern airplanes or Western rockets. Then, what were they referring to?

It is interesting to realize that this object must have been some time in the sky in order for Sarmiento de Gamboa either to draw it or make some sketch of it.

In the text of Sarmiento de Gamboa there are no further references to this object or to any similar thing besides the illustration of some type of a fiery object – *Lámina IIa*, *Número 9* (Sheet II, Number 9) –.

The illustrations of this strange flying object in the firmament of Patagonia, although the mystery of its origin, are quite clear: A russet-white roundish object that *went over a high mount*, changing its form. The extraordinary description made by Pedro Sarmiento de Gamboa of this *flying object* in Patagonia is the first record of a UFO in Chile and possibly one of the first in South America.

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[1] See Stothers, R. *Unidentified Flying Objects in Classical Antiquity*. Pages 79-92.

[2] Fernández Navarrete, M.; Salvá, M. & Sainz de Baranda, P. *Colección de documentos inéditos para la historia de España*. Page 380.

[3] Lauri, Y. B. *Una atrevida interpretación de la Portada del Sol*. Page 622.

[4] Rostworowski, M. *Estructuras andinas del poder*. Page 39.

[5] Darga, Adarga. f. *Escudo de cuero, ovalado o de forma de corazón*, de acuerdo al *Diccionario de la Real Academia Española* (RAE). A leather shield, with an oval shape or in the shape of a heart, according to the Dictionary of the Royal Spanish Academy.

[6] [Misioneros Salesianos]. *Los shelknam. Indígenas de la Tierra del Fuego. Sus tradiciones, costumbres y lengua*. Page 29.

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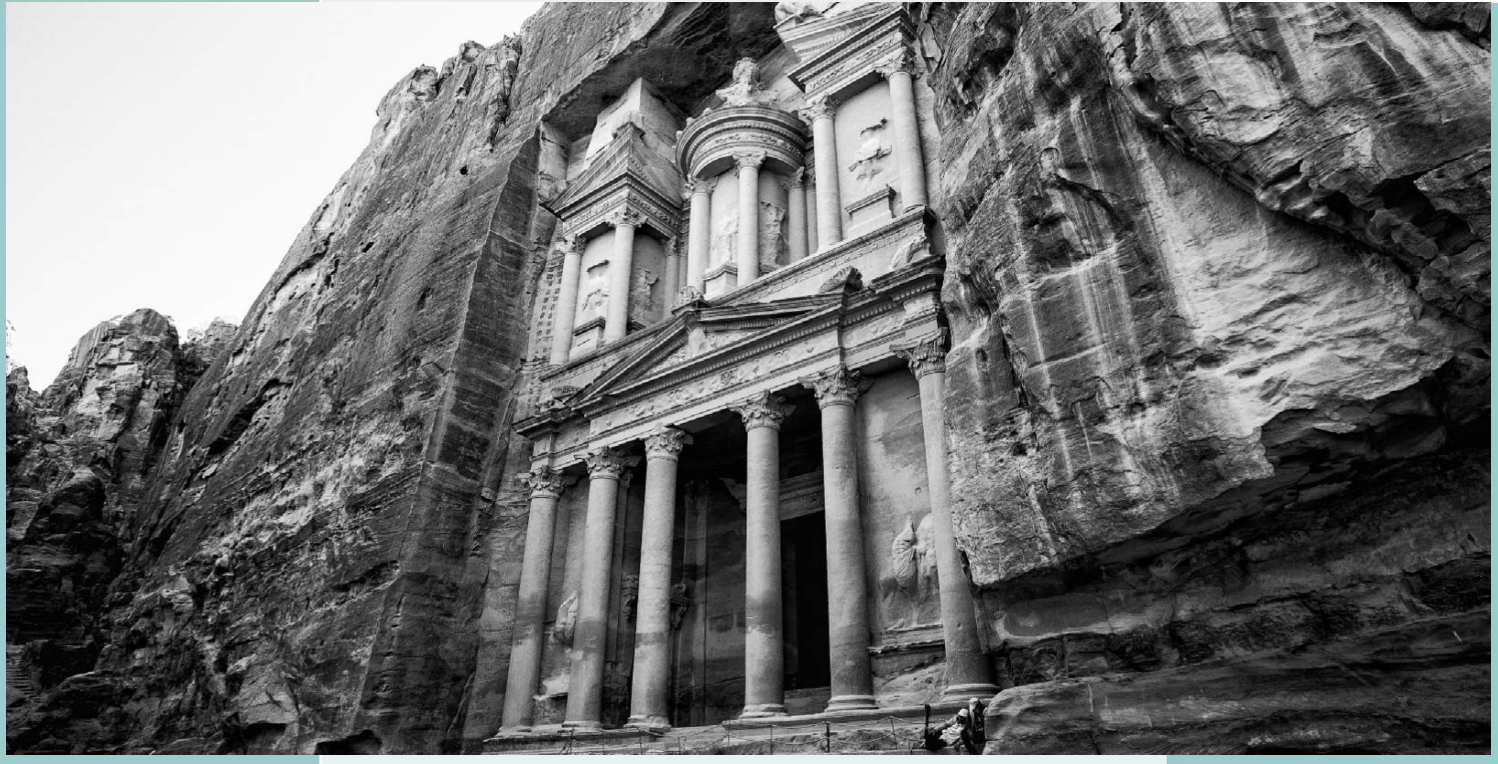

The enigmatic ancient city of Petra, Jordan. Photo copyright Herbert Eisengruber

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